

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ACDA-05 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 H-02 SSO-00

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:MJPLATT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA NIACT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T STATE 254128

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, GT, BH, UK, UN

SUBJECT: BRITISH REQUEST FOR U.S. SUPPORT ON BELIZE
RESOLUTION

SUMMARY: U.K. EMBASSY IN MEETING TODAY (OCT 24) WITH
ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS SOUGHT USG SUPPORT AND
ASSISTANCE IN (A) GETTING U.N. TO PASS U.K.-BELIZE-
CARIBBEAN DRAFT RESOLUTION ON INDEPENDENCE FOR BELIZE,
AND (B) PERSUADING GUATEMALA THAT PENDING RESOLUTION
WAS NOT QUOTE HUMILIATING UNQUOTE AND THEY SHOULD
ACCEPT IT AND RESUME NEGOTIATIONS WITH U.K. ROGERS
REPLIED THAT WE WERE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS AS TO HOW
GUATEMALANS WOULD REACT TO DRAFT RESOLUTION AND COULD
NOT OFFER THE BRITISH VERY MUCH COMFORT IN OUR BEING ABLE
TO PERSUADE THE GUATEMALANS TO ACCEPT SUCH A RESOLUTION.
END SUMMARY.

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1. KEN SCOTT, HEAD OF CHANCERY, CALLED ON ASSISTANT

SECRETARY ROGERS AT 5:30 TODAY (OCT 24). U.K. EMBASSY HAD SOUGHT MEETING FOR THEIR DCM MORETON WITH UNDER SECRETARY SISCO, WHO WAS UNABLE TO SCHEDULE A MEETING TODAY.

2. SCOTT OPENED BY SAYING HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO DELIVER A MESSAGE ON BELIZE FOR THE SECRETARY'S ATTENTION. ROGERS REPLIED HE WOULD PASS THE MESSAGE TO THE SECRETARY DIRECTLY FOLLOWING THE MEETING. SCOTT THEN DELIVERED AN AIDE MEMOIRE (BEING POUCHED TO ADDRESSES) MAKING THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

3. THE BRITISH SAID THEY ARE ANXIOUS TO GET THROUGH WITH U.N. DEBATE AND START MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GUATEMALANS. THEY HAD SHOWN THE GUATEMALANS THE DRAFT RESOLUTION AT 4:00 P.M. TODAY (OCT 24) AND WERE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS AS TO HOW THE GUATEMALANS WOULD REACT. THEY HAD WANTED TO GET OUR REACTIONS FIRST, BUT THE TEXT HAD LEAKED OUT TO THE GOG. THIS WAS THE TENTH DRAFT, AND IF IT WERE OPENED TO AMENDMENTS DURING DEBATE, THE RESOLUTION WOULD ONLY BECOME TOUGHER FOR THE GUATEMALANS TO ACCEPT. THE BRITISH WANT THE SECRETARY QUOTE TO INSTRUCT USUN TO WORK WITH US TO ACHIEVE A RESOLUTION WHICH THE USG CAN SUPPORT UNQUOTE. THE BRITISH QUOTE HOPE THAT THE AMERICANS WILL STRESS TO THE GUATEMALANS ... THAT THIS IS NOT A HUMILIATING RESOLUTION. THE USG'S INFLUENCE COULD BE DECISIVE IN PERSUADING GUATEMALA THAT BELIZE'S INDEPENDENCE MUST COME SOON AND THUS ELIMINATE THE RISK OF WAR UNQUOTE.

4. ROGERS REPLIED THAT WE TOO WERE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS AS TO HOW THE GUATEMALANS WOULD REACT TO THIS DRAFT HE SAID WE CANNOT OFFER VERY MUCH COMFORT AS TO OUR ABILITY TO PERSUADE THE GUATEMALANS TO ACCEPT THIS RESOLUTION. WE HAVE ALREADY USED UP A GREAT DEAL OF OUR CREDIT WITH THE GUATEMALANS AND ARE NOT SURE WE HAVE MUCH MORE TO CALL ON.

5. SCOTT THEN ASKED IF THE GUATEMALANS HAVE LATIN
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AMERICAN SUPPORT, TO WHICH ARA/CEN LAZAR REPLIED THAT IN GENERAL THEY DID, BUT NOT FROM ALL THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT LIKELY THAT ANY WOULD ACTUALLY VOTE AGAINST GUATEMALA.

6. SCOTT STATED THE U.K. BELIEVES THE RESOLUTION WILL PASS THE U.N. AND ASKED FOR OUR HELP IN PERSUADING THE GUATEMALANS THAT THIS PRESENT DRAFT WAS THE BEST

THEY COULD HOPE TO GET.

7. ROGERS ASKED IF THE U.K. HAD AN ASSESSMENT AS TO WHETHER THE GUATEMALAN ARMY WOULD MOVE. SCOTT REPLIED THAT THEY DID NOT AND THEN DESCRIBED A

CONVERSATION LAST NIGHT (OCT 23) BETWEEN A MEMBER OF THE U.K. DELEGATION IN NEW YORK AND FRANCISCO VILLAGRAN OF THE GUATEMALAN DELEGATION. THE BRITISH HAD DESCRIBED THE DRAFT RESOLUTION TO VILLAGRAN, BUT EVIDENTLY HAD NOT SHOWN HIM THE TEXT. VILLAGRAN HAD COMMENTED THAT HE THOUGHT THE GUATEMALANS COULD ACCEPT IT. LAZAR REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT THINK VILLAGRAN WAS A KEY MEMBER OF THE GUATEMALAN DELEGATION.

8. THE BRITISH ADDED THAT UKUN AMBASSADOR IVOR RICHARD HAD EVEN BEEN CONSIDERING FLYING TO GUATEMALA TO SHOW THE DRAFT PERSONALLY TO FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA AND EXPLAIN WHY THE BRITISH THOUGHT THIS WAS THE BEST LANGUAGE THEY COULD GET. THIS HAS BEEN OVERTAKEN, HOWEVER, AS THE CARIBBEANS INTEND TO START CIRCULATING THE DRAFT RESOLUTION THIS WEEK-END.

9. ROGERS THANKED THE BRITISH FOR COMING AND SAID HE WOULD SEE TO IT THAT A MESSAGE WAS SENT TO USUN THIS EVENING (OCT 24). HE DID NOT SAY WHAT THE MESSAGE WOULD CONTAIN, MUCH LESS PROMISE AN INSTRUCTION. KISSINGER

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